AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 4-9, 12-17, 19-25, 27-29, and 31-41 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 5-6, 8-9, 13-14, 16-17, 20-21, 24, and 35 are currently amended to clarify the present invention as embodied in these claims, and claims 3 and 11 are canceled, without acquiescence in the cited basis for rejection or prejudice to pursue in a related application. Claims 37-41 are new. A complete listing of claims is provided below and supersedes all previous listing(s) of claims. No new matter has been added.

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, comprising:

preventing a first resource consumer of a first group from starting a new activity on the computer system based upon a first resource plan, in which the first resource plan comprises a limit on a first maximum number of active sessions for the first group; and

allowing a zero or more second resource consumer of a second group to continue an already-running activity on the computer system based upon a second resource plan for the second group, in which the resource plan further comprises a second limit on a second maximum number of active sessions for the second group.

wherein the first resource plan and the second resource plan are adapted in order to allow one or more third resource consumers of a third group to start a new activity by respectively preventing the first resource consumer from starting a new activity and by allowing zero or more second resource consumer to continue an already-running activity; and

storing the first resource plan or the second resource plan in a tangible medium for use by the computer system.

2-3.   (Canceled).

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the prevented activity is queued.

5.   (Currently Amended) A The method of claim 1 for quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, the computer system having a first configurable value associated with a first ~~resource consumer~~ group, the first ~~resource consumer~~ group comprising one or more resource consumers, the first configurable value representing a first number of active sessions that the first ~~resource consumer~~ group is allowed to have running on the computer system, comprising:

> configuring the first configurable value to a quiescence value, the quiescence value being adapted to limit the number of newly active sessions for the first ~~resource consumer~~ group to zero, wherein all currently active sessions in the first group are allowed to continue, but no new sessions in the first group are allowed to become active.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the computer system further comprises a second configurable value associated with a fourth ~~fifth resource consumer~~ group, the fourth ~~fifth resource consumer~~ group comprising ~~one~~ zero or more resource consumers, the second configurable value being adapted to define a second number of active sessions the fourth ~~fifth resource consumer~~ group is allowed to have running in the computer system, further comprising:

> configuring the second configurable value to a value adapted to allow one or more active sessions from the fourth ~~fifth resource consumer~~ group to be run while the first configurable value is set to the quiescence value.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein sessions prevented from becoming active are queued.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method for quiescing a computer system, the computer system operating according to a first resource plan, comprising:

> replacing the first resource plan with a second resource plan, the second resource plan comprising a first resource consumer group and a second resource consumer group, the second resource plan being adapted to prevent the first resource consumer group from starting new activity on the computer system ~~while allowing~~ in order to allow

the second resource consumer group to start <u>and complete a</u> new activity on the computer system, wherein the second resource plan comprises an active session limit that represents a limit on a number of active sessions.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product that includes a medium useable by a processor, the medium comprising a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a method for quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, the method comprising:

preventing a first resource consumer of a first group from starting a new activity on the computer system based upon a <u>first</u> resource plan, in which the <u>first</u> resource plan comprises a limit on a <u>first</u> maximum number of active sessions for the first group; and

allowing <s>a</s> <u>zero or more</u> second resource consumer of a second group to continue an already-running activity on the computer system <u>based upon a second resource plan for the second group</u>, <s>in which the resource plan further comprises a second limit on a second maximum number of active sessions for the second group.</s>

<u>wherein the first resource plan and the second resource plan are adapted in order to allow one or more third resource consumer of a third group to start a new activity by respectively preventing the first resource consumer from starting a new activity and by allowing zero or more second resource consumer to continue an already-running activity; and</u>

<u>storing the first resource plan or the second resource plan in a tangible medium for use by the computer system.</u>

10-11. (Canceled).

12.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the prevented activity is queued.

13.   (Currently Amended) A The computer program product of claim 9 that includes a medium useable by a processor, the medium comprising a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a method for quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, the computer system having a first configurable value associated with a the first resource consumer group, the first resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, the first configurable value representing a first number of active sessions that the first resource consumer group is allowed to have running on the computer system, the method comprising:

configuring the first configurable value to a quiescence value, the quiescence value being adapted to limit the number of newly active sessions for the first resource consumer group to zero, wherein all currently active sessions in the first group are allowed to continue, but no new sessions in the first group are allowed to become active.

14.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the computer system further comprises a second configurable value associated with a second resource consumer group, the second resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, the second configurable value being adapted to define a second number of active sessions the second resource consumer group is allowed to have running in the computer system, further comprising:

configuring the second configurable value to a value adapted to allow one or more active sessions from the second resource consumer group to be run while the first configurable value is set to the quiescence value.

15.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein sessions prevented from becoming active are queued.

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product that includes a medium useable by a processor, the medium comprising a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a method for quiescing a computer system, the computer system operating according to a first resource plan, the method comprising:

replacing the first resource plan with a second resource plan, the second resource plan comprising a first resource consumer group and a second resource consumer group, the second resource plan being adapted to prevent the first resource consumer group from starting new activity on the computer system ~~while allowing~~ in order to allow the second resource consumer group to start new activity on the computer system, wherein the second resource plan comprises an active session limit that represents a limit on a number of active sessions.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for quiescing a user activity in a computer system, comprising:

a processor adapted to implement a first resource plan and a second resource plan;

~~means for~~ a processor adapted to preventing a first resource consumer of a first group from starting a new activity on the computer system based upon ~~a~~ the first resource plan, in which the first resource plan comprises a limit on a first maximum number of active sessions for the first group;

means for allowing ~~a~~ zero or more second resource consumer of a second group to continue an already-running activity on the computer system based upon the second resource plan for the second group, ~~in which the resource plan further comprises a second limit on a second maximum number of active sessions for the second group; and~~

wherein the first resource plan and the second resource plan are adapted in order to allow one or more third resource consumer of a third group to start a new activity by respectively preventing the first resource consumer from starting a new activity and by allowing zero or more second resource consumer to continue an already-running activity; and

storing the first resource plan or the second resource plan in a tangible medium for use by the computer system.

18.   (Canceled).

19.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising a means for scheduling which prevents the first group of resource consumers from starting new activity while allowing the second group of resource consumers to start new activity.

20.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the new activity prevented from starting of the first resource consumer is queued.

21.   (Currently Amended) A system of quiescing resource consumer activity in a computer system, comprising:

a resource plan, the resource plan means for implementing a resource plan,

the resource plan identifying a first resource consumer group, to which a computer system resource is to be allocated, and specifying an allocation of the resource to the first resource consumer group,

the resource plan having a first configurable value associated with the first resource consumer group,

the first resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, and

the first configurable value representing a first number of active sessions that the first resource consumer group is allowed to have running on the computer system; and

a scheduler for allocating a processor adapted to allocate the resource to the first resource consumer group according to the resource plan,[[;]]

wherein the first configurable value is configured to a quiescence value, the quiescence value being adapted to limit the number of newly active sessions for the first resource consumer group to zero, and

wherein all currently active sessions are allowed to continue, but no new sessions are allowed to become active in order to allow a third resource consumer group to start and complete operation.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the computer system further comprises a second configurable value associated with a second resource consumer group, the second resource consumer group comprising one or more resource consumers, the second configurable value being adapted to define a second number of active sessions that the second resource consumer group is allowed to have running in the computer system, wherein the second configurable value is configured to a value adapted to allow one or more active sessions from the second resource consumer group to be run, while the first configurable value is set to the quiescence value.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein sessions prevented from becoming active are queued.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for quiescing a computer system, comprising:

means for implementing a resource plan,

the resource plan comprising identifying a first resource consumer group and a second resource consumer group,

the resource plan being adapted to prevent the first resource consumer group from starting a new activity on the computer system while allowing in order to allow the second resource consumer group to start a new activity on the computer system, and

wherein the second resource plan comprises an active session limit that represents a limit on a number of active sessions; and

a processor adapted to allocate a scheduler for allocating the resource to the first resource consumer group and the second resource consumer group, as directed by the resource plan.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the limit on the maximum number of active sessions is zero.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 9, in which the limit on the maximum number of active sessions is zero.

28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, in which the limit on the maximum number of active sessions is zero.

30.   (Canceled)

31.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the number of active sessions is limited not to exceed the limit.

32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the number of active sessions of the first resource consumer group is limited not to exceed the active session limit.

33.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the number of active sessions is limited not to exceed the limit.

34.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the number of active sessions of the first resource consumer group is limited not to exceed the active session limit.

35.   (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the number of active sessions is limited not to exceed the limit ~~prescribed value~~.

36.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the number of active sessions of the first resource consumer group is limited not to exceed the active session limit.

37.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 1, in which the first resource plan comprises a resource sub-plan for allocating the system resource within the first group.

38.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 1, in which the first resource plan comprises no limit on a maximum number of active sessions for the second group.

39.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 1, in which the first resource plan allocates the system resource according to a respective weight associated with at least one of the first group and the second group.

40.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

        deactivating and replacing the first resource plan or the second resource plan with a third
            resource plan upon completion of operation of the third group.

41.   (New) The computer implemented method of claim 1, in which the third group comprises a process for maintaining the computer system.